

Application No. 10/741,324
Amendment dated: November 29, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 29, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated August 29, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 39. In this response, claims 1, 37 and 39 have been amended. Amended claims 1, 37, and 39 recite a method comprising the preparation of an acidic zeolite catalyst and determining an acidic site distribution for said catalyst, said distribution comprising 35% or more sites having an activation energy of ammonia desorption in a range between about 145 kJ/mol and about 170 kJ/mol. The method further recites additional steps wherein biphenyl is continuously reacted with propene and the product 4,4'-diisopropylbiphenyl is recovered. The antecedent basis for the amendment of claims 1, 37 and 39 to recite a verification step (i.e. determining an acidic site distribution for the catalyst) may be found in the experimental results provided in Table 1 on page 15 and the Specification in paragraph [0046] on page 14 of the application. No new matter has been added.

The Applicants urge that the claims of the instant invention, especially as amended, recite patentable subject matter over the combined teachings of Nakamura (US4982037) in view of Apelian (US5238677) and Lee (US 505150797), and over the combined teachings of Holtermann (US5149894), Cupples (US 4045508) and Shihabi (US 4448673). The Applicants thus respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1 - 39 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the cited references be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing arguments and amendments the Applicants courteously solicit a prompt allowance of claims 1-39. Should the need arise, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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